

*a<sup>2</sup>* 2. Description of Related Art

Page 1, lines 17-18, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

*a<sup>3</sup>* The support bearing is preferably accommodated with the auxiliary bearing. In such embodiment, a compact and stiff support for the rotor and screw is obtained.

Page 2, between lines 3 and 4, insert a new heading as follows:

*a<sup>4</sup>* SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, lines 28-33, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

*a<sup>5</sup>* Said coupling may comprise an internally toothed member as well as an externally toothed member having equal number of teeth. The bending action of the housing can be accommodated in particular in case the teeth of the externally toothed member are convexly curved in a cross-section parallel to the linear movement, and in case the teeth of the externally toothed member are centered with respect to the ball joint.

Page 3, between lines 9 and 10, insert a new heading as follows:

*a<sup>6</sup>* BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 3, between lines 15 and 16, insert a new heading as follows:

*a<sup>7</sup>* DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Page 3, lines 21-23, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

*a<sup>8</sup>* The screw 5 is integrated with the outer ring 10 of support bearing 11. The outer ring 10 has a larger diameter than the screw 5, for reasons of compactness of the actuator.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-33, as follows:

*a<sup>9</sup>* 1. (Amended) An actuator, comprising:

a housing accommodating a screw mechanism; and

a drive comprising a motor, wherein said screw mechanism comprises a nut

and a screw, one of which is rotatably supported relative to the housing, such that upon